

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 280730Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1981

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T ALGIERS 0544

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, AG

SUBJ: REPRESENTATION AT PRODUCER/CONSUMER PREPARATORY

MEETING

REF: STATE 042898

SUMMARY: ALGERIAN POSITION ON PRODUCER/CONSUMER
CONFERENCE IS: (1) CONFERENCE SHOULD BE BETWEEN
DC'S VERSUS LDC'S; (2) LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FROM
LDC'S SHOULD BE CHOSEN BY REGIONAL GROUPINGS;
(3) CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE DEVOTED JUST TO ENERGY
BUT SHOULD DISCUSS WHOLE RANGE OF BASIC COMMODITIES.
FRENCH HAVE NOT YET FORMALLY INVITED ALGERIA BUT ARE
ABOUT TO DO SO. END SUMMARY.

1. ALGERIANS SET FORTH THEIR POSITION ON PRODUCER/
CONSUMER TALKS TO UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON ON FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 21.

2. AT THAT TIME MINISTER ABDESSELAM MADE CLEAR
TO UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON THAT ALGERIA WOULD
OPPOSE A CONFERENCE WHOSE PRINCIPAL AIM WAS TO LOWER
OIL PRICES. PRESENT WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS MANY

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CAUSES BUT THE PRIMARY ISSUE IS ONE OF DEVELOPMENT, AND

PRODUCERS DO NOT WISH TO PAY COST OF PAST DC POLICIES.
GIVEN THIS POSITION ALGERIA BELIEVES MORE THAN JUST OIL
SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT SUCH A CONFERENCE, AND IT SHOULD
BE A DC/LDC CONFERENCE. ABDESSELAM IN SUMMINGUUP
DID INDICATE THAT IF CONFERENCE WAS AIMED AT RE-ORGANIZING
WORLD AT TODAY'S PRICES THEN ALGERIA WOULD HELP.

3. ON PARTICIPATION, ABDESSELAM TALKING FOR THE LDC'S
SAID THEY WERE THINKING IN TERMS OF MANY PROBLEMS
AND MANY COUNTRIES. WHEN PRESSED, HE AVOIDED TALKING
TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, BUT STRESSED THE LDCS
SHOULD DECIDE THEMSELVES WHO REPRESENTS THEM. HE
THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE DONE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UN
REGIONAL GROUPS AND BY THE NON-ALIGNED.

4. FRENCH EMBASSY REPORTS THAT FRENCH EMISSARY
(DE GUIRINGAUD OF THEIR UN DELEGATION) CAME HERE
FEBRUARY 22 AND MET WITH MINISTER INDUSTRY AND
ENERGY ABDESSELAM TO INFORM HIM FRENCH WERE GOING
TO SEND OUT INVITATIONS THIS WEEK. ABDESSELAM MADE
RESPONSE ALONG WELL KNOWN ALGERIAN LINES ABOUT
SUBJECT MATTER AND NATURE OF CONFERENCE. WITH
REGARD TO COMPOSITION HE SAID ALGERIA WOULD NOT OPPOSE
NAMES ON YAMANI LIST OF INVITEES BUT FELT THAT
MORE REPRESENTATIVES FROM LDC'S SHOULD BE ADDED.
ALGERIA OBJECTS TO COLORATION OF PRESENT LIST, WHICH
WOULD NOT BE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE.

5. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SPECULATES ALGERIANS ARE PLAYING
FOR TIME AND WILL MAKE NO DECISION ON CONFERENCE UNTIL
NEXT WEEK'S OPEC SUMMIT, WHERE THEY WILL COUNT VOTES
AND THEN DECIDE WHICH WAY TO JUMP. HE FEELS PUBLICATION IN
LOCAL PRESS YESTERDAY AND TODAY OF BOUTEFLIKA ATTACK ON
FRANCE OVER DJIBOUTI WAS MEANT AS WARNING TO FRENCH THAT
IF THEY DO NOT GO ALONG WITH ALGERIAN DESIRES ALGERIANS
WILL MAKE TROUBLE FOR THEM. HE SAID FRENCH AT THIS
POINT NOT DISPOSED ENLARGE LIST OF INVITEES AS SUGGESTED
BY ALGERIANS BECAUSE THIS WOULD BE AN INVITATION FURTHER
BIBBLING AT STRUCTURE OF CONFERENCE.

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NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, MR. TWOHIE.

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NNN

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